

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-01 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /052 W

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P 010730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4631

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: US-GON CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS--COMMENTS BY FONMIN

REF: HAGUE 5189

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SOUGHT ME OUT AT TURKISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OCT 29 TO PURSUE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH CIVIL AIR RELATIONS (REFTEL). I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SATISFACTION AT OUTCOME OF LAST WEEK'S CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS IN LIGHT OF DIFFICULT BEGINNING WHICH THEY HAD HAD. I COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE MODERATING ROLE WHICH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION WESTERTERP AND STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST HAD PLAYED. VAN DER STOEL REPLIED THAT GON WAS STILL EXTREMELY CONCERNED IN VIEW OF ENORMITY OF OUR INITIAL DEMANDS FOR REDUCTION IN KLM TRAFFIC. HE STRESSED SPECIAL PLACE THAT KLM HAS AS LARGE EMPLOYER AND NATIONAL SYMBOL IN EYES OF DUTCH PEOPLE. HE HOPED US WOULD DO ITS VERY BEST NOT TO SQUEEZE KLM TOO HARD IN VIEW OF GOOD RELATIONS WHICH PRESENTLY EXIST BETWEEN US AND NETHERLANDS.

2. I ASURED MINISTER HIS VIEWS WOULD BE REPORTED IN WASHINGTON. THE MAJOR PROBLEM NOW, IT SEEMED TO ME, WAS THAT ENERGY COSTS ARE NOW SO ENORMOUS THAT PROFOUND RATIONALIZATION OF TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAFFIC WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE. PERHAPS THIS WILL ULTIMATELY REQUIRE MERGER OF SOME EUROPEAN LINES SUCH AS
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SCANDINAVIAN, DUTCH AND BELGIAN. IN ANY EVEN, I SAID, THERE WILL

HAVE TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN KLM'S SIXTH FREEDOM TRAFFICE. NOT ONLY DOES THIS TRAFFIC VIOLATE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF BILATERAL, BUT IS BASICALLY WASTEFUL, E.G., A PASSENGER IN US WISHING TO GO ONLY TO ENGLAND SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT TRAVEL THERE VIA AMSTERDAM.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF LETTER FROM WESTERTERP TO SECOND CHAMBER IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT CONSEQUENCE OF US DEMANDS ON KLM WILL BE SO SERIOUS THAT THEY COULD AFFECT GENERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND NETHERLANDS. EXCERPTS FROM LETTER FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

4. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WESTERTERP WILL HEAD DELEGATION GOING TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA05288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740312-0809
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741177/aaaacnru.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HAGUE 5189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GON CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS--COMMENTS BY FONMIN
TAGS: EAIR, NL, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005